



Jim Doyle
Governor

Helene Nelson
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State of Wisconsin

Department of Health and Family Services

DATE: February 2, 2006

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Jill D. Chase, Director
Bureau of Regulation and Licensing

RE: **LICENSING ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORTS FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE, CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES AND CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES - JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 2005**

I am sending you statewide informational reports for calendar year 2005 on licensed child care, children's residential facilities and child welfare agencies. These reports include information on the size and capacity of children's licensed facilities and associated licensing activities for January through December, 2005, including complaint and enforcement activity for this period.

STATUS OF LICENSED FACILITIES

- BRL regulated 5,860 facilities in 2005. This is a 1% decrease between 2004 and 2005 in the number of facilities regulated by BRL. (See Attachment A).
- BRL conducted 10,811 site visits in 2005 to monitor, provide technical assistance, verify compliance and conduct complaint investigations. This was accomplished with 54.80 full-time equivalent licensing specialists.
- Statewide licensed child care capacity increased by 1,672 slots from December of 2004 to December of 2005, an increase of 1%.
- Statewide capacity in residential care centers for children and youth decreased by 3% between 2004 and 2005. Statewide capacity in group homes decreased by 5% between 2004 and 2005. Shelter Care capacity decreased by 7% between 2004 and 2005. This decrease in capacity is due to a 5% drop in the total number of child welfare facilities in 2005. Statewide licensed child care and child welfare capacity is presented in the Statewide Capacity Statistics Report (Attachment C).
- During 2005, 820 new child care centers and child welfare agencies were licensed (806 child care centers and 14 child welfare agencies). The total number of new agencies licensed in 2005 increased by 4% compared to the number of new agencies licensed in 2004.

- During 2005, there were 905 child care closures, about 18% more closures than in 2004. A total of 905 child care centers closed in 2005, compared to 768 in 2004. Twenty nine children's residential and child welfare agencies were closed in 2005, compared to 32 in 2004.
- Milwaukee County continues to experience growth in licensed child care and child welfare agencies. Milwaukee's licensed facilities grew by 3% in 2005. This is a net increase of 46 facilities.
- The number of child care facilities in Milwaukee increased by 3% in 2005. The number and capacity of Milwaukee's **family** child care centers increased by 5% between 2004 and 2005.

COMPLAINTS

- BRL investigated 1,641 complaints during 2005, involving 3,033 alleged violations. This compares to 1,822 complaints investigated in 2004 and represents a 10% decrease in complaint investigations compared to 2004.
- Twenty percent (335) of the complaints investigated in 2005 concerned unlicensed facilities. This compares to 410 complaints concerning unlicensed facilities in 2004 or 23% of all complaints investigated during that year.
- Ninety five percent (1,553) of the complaints were about child care programs. Of the 2,851 alleged violations, 1,143 violations (40%) were founded for complaints involving child care programs.
- For child welfare agencies, a total of 88 complaints were investigated in 2005, involving 182 alleged violations. Of the total alleged violations, 103 violations (57%) were founded for child welfare facilities. The total number of investigated complaints concerning child welfare facilities is up 24%, compared to the same period of time in 2004.
- The most frequently alleged violations in child care in 2005 concerned staff coverage (17%), unlicensed illegal operation (13%), administration and records (10%) and inappropriate discipline/behavior (10%). The most frequently alleged violations in child welfare facilities involved abuse or neglect (19%), inappropriate discipline/behavior (15%) and staff coverage (9%).

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

- BRL initiated 546 enforcement actions in 2005, compared to 596 enforcement actions in 2004. This is an 8% decrease in enforcements between 2004 and 2005. The most frequent actions in 2005 were warning letters (139), forfeitures (126) and orders (123).
- Thirty three licenses were revoked in 2005, compared to 44 revocations in 2004.
- Ninety percent (490) of all enforcement actions were taken with child care facilities.

Please refer to attached reports and graphs for additional information.

C BRL Regional Licensing Chiefs
 Burneatta Bridge, DCFS Administrator
 William Fiss, DCFS Deputy Administrator
 Mark Campbell, DCFS/BPP
 John Tuohy, DCFS/OPEP
 Denise Revels-Robinson, DCFS/BMCW
 Diane Waller, OSF Area Administration
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